IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-11 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1-11, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A recording apparatus for recording on recording sheets by recording means, said recording apparatus comprising:

a transporting roller for transporting the recording sheets, said transporting roller being positioned upstream of the recording means relative to the transporting direction;

a proximal discharging roller for transporting the recording sheets, said proximal discharging roller being positioned downstream of the recording means relative to the transporting direction; and

a distal discharging roller disposed downstream of said proximal discharging roller relative to the transporting direction, said distal discharging roller being of higher precision than said proximal discharging roller.

2. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, said proximal discharging roller and said distal discharging roller each comprising:

a shaft serving as a center of rotation; and

a rubber roller portion for integrally rotating with said shaft to transport the recording sheets,

wherein the shaft of said distal discharging roller is formed of metal, and the shaft of said proximal discharging roller is formed of resin.

3. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said distal discharging roller is formed by polishing.

4. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, further comprising slave rollers each rotating synchronously with said proximal and distal discharging rollers, wherein the pressing force of a distal slave roller rotating synchronously with said distal discharging roller is greater than that of a proximal slave roller rotating synchronously with said proximal discharging roller.

5. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, further comprising load torque providing means for providing load torque to said distal discharging roller.

6. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said load torque providing means comprises a leaf spring and friction pad for pressing against the shaft of said distal discharging roller.

7. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said load torque providing means comprises a clutch spring wound onto said shaft of said distal discharging roller.

8. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said load torque providing means comprises a compression coil spring for pressing against a gear on the axis of said distal discharging roller.

9. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein the friction coefficient between said distal discharging roller and the recording sheets is greater than the friction coefficient between said proximal discharging roller and the recording sheets.

10. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein said recording means comprises a recording head which records on the recording sheets by discharging ink.

11. (Amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said recording head applies electricity to electro-thermal converters in accordance with signals, and discharges the ink using thermal energy generated by said electro-thermal converters.